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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,484	03/07/2002	Kazuo Goto	03500.016264	9461

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EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,484

Applicant(s)

GOTO, KAZUO

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because in line 1, the word "same" should read "time".
3. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

4. The drawings received on 3/7/02 are acceptable to the examiner.

Claim Objections

5. **Claim 1** is objected to because of the following informalities:
In **claim 1**, line 6, "the second level" should read "a second level";
in **claim 1**, line 7, "the control signal" should read "a control signal"; and
in **claim 1**, lines 9 and 10, "the first level" should read "a first level".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. **Claims 1-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishizawa (U.S. Patent Number 5,661,373).

Regarding ***claim 1***, Nishizawa discloses a serial communication apparatus for sending and receiving serial data through data signal lines (see Fig. 2, column 2, lines 14-51, and column 10, lines 51-64), comprising buffer means for releasing data signals (three-state buffer BU1 and BU2, column 2, lines 14-51, and column 11, lines 1-57), and level control means for releasing signal lines at a given timing after a second level retains data signals, if a control signal that instructs the release of data signal to the buffer means is inputted (column 2, lines 14-51, and column 10, line 51-column 11, line 57), when the data signal line indicates a first level by the buffer means (column 2, lines 14-51, and column 11, lines 1-57).

Regarding ***claim 2***, Nishizawa discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the serial communication apparatus uses a three-state buffer as the buffer means (column 10, lines 51-64), the level control means retains the second level by the three-state buffer, and the three-state buffer is set up in a high-output impedance condition at a given timing after input of control signal (column 11, lines 1-57).

Regarding *claim 3*, Nishizawa discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of means for stopping the operation of the level control means (column 10, lines 39-50).

Regarding *claim 4*, Nishizawa discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of means for canceling the operation stop of the level control means (column 10, lines 39-50), on condition that at least one time of normal communication is made after communication trouble if communication trouble occurred (column 10, line 1-column 11, line 57).

Regarding *claim 5*, Nishizawa discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of means for releasing the data signal line if the data signal line indicates the first level when sending or receiving has ended (column 11, lines 53-57).

Regarding *claim 6*, Nishizawa discloses a serial communication method of sending and receiving serial data through data signal lines (see Fig. 2, column 2, lines 14-51, and column 10, lines 51-64), comprising a first step of retaining data signals at a second level (column 2, lines 14-51, and column 11, lines 1-57), if a control signal that instructs the release of data signal to a buffer means is inputted, when the data signal line indicates a first level by the buffer means that has also the function of releasing data signals (column 2, lines 14-51, and column 10, line 51-column 11, line 57), and a second step of releasing data signals at a given timing after the second level retains data signals in the first step (column 2, lines 14-51, and column 11, lines 1-57).

Regarding *claim 7*, Nishizawa discloses the method discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that the serial communication method uses a three-state buffer as the buffer means, and the first step retains the second level by the three-state buffer (column 10, lines 51-

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64), and in the second step, the three-state buffer is set up in a high-output impedance condition at a given timing after input of control signal (column 11, lines 1-57).

Regarding *claim 8*, Nishizawa discloses the method discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches of a step of inhibiting the processing by the control step (column 10, lines 39-50).

Regarding *claim 9*, Nishizawa discloses the method discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches of a step of canceling the processing inhibition of the control step (column 10, lines 39-50), on condition that at least one time of normal communication is made after communication trouble if communication trouble occurred (column 10, line 1-column 11, line 57).

Regarding *claim 10*, Nishizawa discloses the method discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches of a step of releasing the data signal line if the data signal line indicates the first level when sending or receiving has ended (column 11, lines 53-57).

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Shingaki (U.S. Patent Number 6,636,100) discloses a Controller Area Network control circuit;

Maekawa (U.S. Patent Number 6,606,286) discloses a signal generating system for an optical disc drive;

Nomura (U.S. Patent Number 6,448,810) discloses a bidirectional bus-repeater controller;

Ebeshu *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,167,493) discloses a read access method for a semiconductor apparatus; and

Moore (U.S. Patent Number 5,475,846) discloses an apparatus for processing PCMCIA interrupt requests.

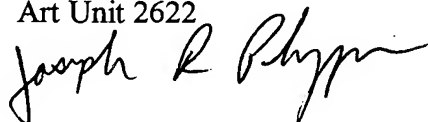
Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622



jrp